

In 1971, a major outbreak occurred in commercial poultry flocks in Southern California. The disease threatened not only the California poultry industry but also the entire U.S. poultry and egg supply. In all, 1,341 infected flocks were identified, and almost 12 million birds were destroyed. The eradication program cost taxpayers \$56 million, severely disrupted the operations of many producers, and increased the prices of poultry and poultry products to consumers.

END was confirmed on October 1, 2002 in backyard poultry in Southern California. The Governor of California has declared a State of Emergency, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has declared an Extraordinary Emergency, and San Diego, Riverside, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties have declared local emergencies because of this serious outbreak. Disease has now spread beyond backyard poultry to affect commercial operations in California, backyard poultry in Nevada and Arizona, and is still spreading. All birds in Southern California are under quarantine - no birds, bird products, or END-exposed materials can be moved from the area without a permit from the USDA. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the USDA have over 1,500 people in Southern California fighting this devastating avian disease.

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